

Comments on the Draft LCGCC Report submitted by Richard Andrews (Climate Change Activities) – March 22, 2010

Climate-change-related activities in NC

UNC-Chapel Hill

In **2007**, UNC-CH became a charter signatory of the **American College and University Presidents' Climate**

Commitment, pledging the University to climate neutrality by midcentury.

An **Energy Efficient Lighting Policy** was implemented and incandescent bulbs were phased out on campus by January 2008.

In **2008**, the University completed its first comprehensive **greenhouse gas emissions inventory**. In 2008, the University was responsible for emitting 569,195 metric tons of carbon dioxide—the equivalent of burning 3,263 railcars of coal at a traditional power plant. The largest sources were the University's on-site heat and power plant (more than 60 percent) and purchased electricity (more than 35 percent). Overall greenhouse gas emissions have increased 37 percent, and emissions per full time equivalent student by 19 percent, during rapid campus expansion since 2000. UNC-Chapel Hill has reduced its energy use per square foot of building area by 8% since 2003. On a per square foot basis, carbon emissions have dropped 12 percent. In 2010 Chancellor Thorp appointed an Energy Task Force to identify and evaluate opportunities for reducing carbon emissions more rapidly.

In order to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, UNC evaluated the most cost-effective options to reduce emissions. The first campus Climate Action Plan, completed in fall 2009, outlines the most promising opportunities over the short-, medium-, and long-term. An interim goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to year 2000 levels by 2020. Seventeen strategies have been identified to halve emissions at low or moderate cost. They include efficiency improvements in new and existing buildings, the introduction of heat recovery chillers, and behavioral changes.

UNC has received a grant of \$17.5 million for a Solar Energy Research Center, and is collaborating with NCSU, Research Triangle Institute and other institutions in the Research Triangle Energy Consortium (RTEC) to develop the potential of North Carolina to become a National Solar Energy research and innovation hub.

UNC System

The UNC Board of Governors adopted a policy in October 2009 that the University shall develop a plan to become carbon neutral as soon as practicable and by 2050 at the latest, with an ultimate goal of climate neutrality. The same policy directs that the University shall develop and implement a comprehensive, multimodal transportation plan designed to reduce carbon emissions and dependency on single occupant vehicles.